

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT RATING TOOL (PART) STATUS

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) uses the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) to assess Federal programs. The PART represents a series of diagnostic questions used to assess and evaluate programs across a set of performance-related criteria, including program design and purpose, strategic planning, program management, and results. PART results are then used to inform the budget process and improve program management to ensure the most effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Rating results are classified into one of five categories: Effective, Moderately Effective, Adequate, Ineffective, and Results Not Demonstrated.

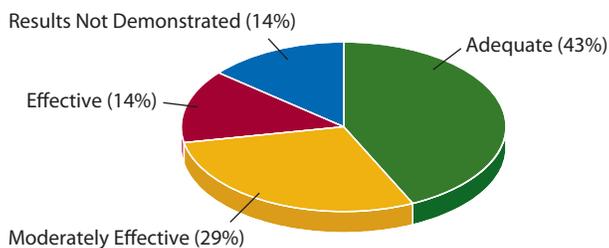
In FY 2003 the Small Business Administration conducted its own internal PART analyses of every SBA program in order to proactively implement this initiative. To date, the SBA, in conjunction with OMB, has initiated seven formal PART assessments for SBA's programs:

- SCORE – Originally assessed in FY 2002
- Small Business Centers – Originally assessed in FY 2002
- Small Business Investment Company – Originally assessed in FY 2002
- Section 504 Certified Development Company Guaranteed Loan Program – Originally assessed in FY 2002
- Business Information Centers – Originally assessed in FY 2002
- Section 7(a) Guaranteed Loan Program – Originally assessed in FY 2004

The FY 2004 PART results represent reviews conducted in FY 2004 for six programs (five reassessments and one new assessment), as the 504 CDC Loan program was not reassessed in FY 2004. All but one of the SBA programs assessed in FY 2004 received ratings within the Adequate to Effective categories; one SBA program, Business Information Centers, was rated Results Not Demonstrated (this program has since been discontinued). SBA has seen an improvement in the ratings of one of its programs, the Disaster Loan Program, which moved from Moderately Effective in FY 2002 to Effective in FY 2004.

The results are summarized in the pie chart below. Detailed information on the PART reviews is presented in Appendix 6 and by Long-Term Objective in the MD&A section of this report.

Current PART Assessment Ratings on SBA Programs



Current PART Assessment Ratings by Category	
Effective	1
Moderately Effective	2
Adequate	3
Ineffective	0
Results Not Demonstrated	1
Total Number of Ratings	7